FILE COPY

November 14, 1979

Mr. Kenneth Millard Vice President, General Counsel Wham-O Manufacturing Company 835 East El Honte Street San Gabriel, California 91778

Re: CPSC ID 30-16

Dear Mr. Millard:

The Product Defect Correction Division (Division) of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (Commission) has reviewed and evaluated the information you have provided, and has made a preliminary determination that the Wham-O Fun Fountain toy presents a substantial product hazard as defined in section 15 of the Consumer Product Safety Act, as amended (CPSA) (15 U.S.C. 2064). The basis for that preliminary determination is embodied in the Division's "Hazard Assessment Committee Recommendation for Preliminary Determination" (copy enclosed). Pursuant to Commission policy and procedure, we have opened an identification (ID) file in your name under ID 80-16.

The Commission believes it imperative that you now act voluntarily to notify consumers of potential hazards associated with their products and take whatever actions are necessary to correct potentially defective products which present a substantial risk of injury to the public. To this end, you are urged to submit to this Division a written corrective action plan within 15 days of receipt of this letter. The elements and purpose of a corrective action plan are set forth in 16 CFR 1115.20(a) (see pages 35003-04 of August 7, 1978 Federal Register notice). The plan you submit must include all of the elements found in 16 CFR 1115.20(a)(1).

Mr. Kenneth Millard Wham-O Manufacturing Co. Page Two

To be acceptable, a corrective action plan must convincingly demonstrate that the public will be protected from the hazard presented by the defect. For example, if only some units of a model or design are being addressed by the plan, you must explain why the plan is so limited. Any modifications or repairs to the product to eliminate the potential defect, or any changes in product design, quality control procedures or manufacturing operations to prevent recurrence of the potential defect will be reviewed and evaluated by the Commission's engineering staff to ensure that such actions are technically effective.

The plan must also provide for adequate notice to all consumers of this product and to persons in the distribution chain. The enclosed list (see Attachment 1) presents various forms which companies have used, depending upon the specific requirements of their situations, to give notice. This list is provided for your information and is not intended in any way to discourage you from proposing new and innovative alternative forms of notification.

Finally, all voluntary corrective action plans must provide for monthly progress reports to be submitted to the Commission Area Office listed below. Since the Commission will be monitoring the effectiveness of your plan at your firm and at various levels of your distribution network, customer lists must be submitted to or made available to a CPSC investigator upon request.

Upon receipt of your corrective action plan, the Division will review the proposal and discuss with you our suggestions and/or objections. If you do not submit a corrective action plan or if the Commission determines that a proposed plan does not adequately protect consumers, an administrative or judicial complaint under section 15 or 12 of the CPSA (15 U.S.C. 2064 or 2061) may issue. Adequate corrective action by you now will, in all likelihood, make it unnecessary for the Commission to make a formal determination that your product presents a substantial product 'azard or to order your company to notify the public and to recall the product.

As stated previously, we believe that notice to the public is an essential element of any corrective action plan. To accomplish this, the Commission makes available to

Mr. Kenneth Millard Wham-O Manufacturing Co. Fage Four

THE INFORMATION WILL BE RELEASED IF YOU DO NOT MAKE A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 1015.18.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Division's "Preliminary Determination Under Section 15 of CPSA" which contains the name of your firm, the identity of the consumer product, the nature of the alleged defect and the staff's preliminary determination. This form is available to the public in the Commission's Public Reading Room, and the information it contains may be used in publications produced by the Commission.

Also enclosed for your information is a copy of the Division's "Hazard Assessment Committee Recommendation for Preliminary Determination." This memorandum will also be forwarded to the Commission's Public Reading Room after it has been purged of any information for which your company has previously claimed or now claims confidentiality. Please review the Hazard Assessment Committee memorandum enclosed, purge out the information for which exempt status is claimed (such as alleged trade secrets, confidential commercial or financial information) and return a copy to this Division within ten days from receipt of this letter. If exempt status is claimed for any information contained in this memorandum follow the procedures outlined in Section 1015.18(c) of the enclosed Federal Register notice of February 22, 1977. If a previous claim for confidentiality has already been made in accordance with Section 1015.18(c). please note the date of such claim in your response. FAILURE TO RESPOND WITHIN TEN (10) WORKING DAYS FROM RECEIPT OF THIS LETTER WILL BE CONSIDERED AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT YOU DO NOT WISH TO CLAIM EXEMPT STATUS FOR ANY INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ENCLOSED HAZARD ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM.

Additionally we request that you submit within 15 days the information outlined in 16 CFR 1115.13(d), which has not previously been supplied (see p. 35002 of Federal Register notice dated August 7, 1978).

Mr. Kenneth Millard Wham-O Manufacturing Company Page Five

If you seek assistance in meeting your obligations or in responding to this letter, your contact with the Hazard Correction Branch will be Sandra Shimasaki (telephone number 301/492-6608). Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Frank B. Pipkin, Chief Hazard Correction Branch Product Defect Correction Division

Enclosures CERTIFIED MAIL

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Los Angeles Area Office 3660 Whikhire Blvd. No. 1100 Los Angeles, California 90010

cc: LOS ANG AO
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CEPD
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Mr. Kenneth Millard Wham-O Manufacturing Co. Page Three

the public an ongoing list of corrective action plans being implemented by firms. Additionally, the Commission customarily issues a press release and/or undertakes mailings to the public unless all consumers of a potentially defective product can be reached by direct mailing or some other effective means. We invite and encourage you to join with the Commission in any such release and/or mailing. If time delays are encountered in trying to give a satisfactory notice, the Commission may release information concerning your company and the product hazard to the public.

In accordance with section 6(b) of the CPSA (15 U.S.C. 2055(b)), this letter constitutes notice of the Commission's intention to release certain factual information (see Attachment 2) to the public via its ongoing list of corrective action plans and via, if necessary, a press release.

If your company has any comments or objections to these facts or to their release to the public, you must state them specifically and in writing and submit them to this Division within twenty days from receipt of this letter. Failure to comment or object in writing will be deemed consent to the release of this information and agreement that the information is accurate. Additionally, the Commission reserves its statutory right under section 6(b) to find that the public health and safety requires a lesser period of notice and to issue a press release or other disclosure in fewer than thirty days.

If you desire confidential treatment of any of the information provided this Division, please read carefully the enclosed Federal Register notice of February 22, 1977, concerning the Freedom of Information Act, paying close attention to section 1015.18 (see page 10494). In addition, please read carefully the enclosed Federal Register notice of August 7, 1978, especially section 1115.15 concerning confidentiality and disclosure of data (see page 35003) and the discussion of confidentiality in the preamble to the regulation (see pages 34995-96). FAILURE TO REQUEST -- EITHER AT THE TIME OF THE SUBMISSION OR WITHIN TEN (10) WORKING DAYS OF THE SUBMISSION -- THAT THE INFORMATION BE CONSIDERED EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE WILL BE CONSIDERED AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT YOU DO NOT WISH TO CLAIM EXEMPT STATUS.

FILE COPY

COMPANY: Wham-O Hamufacturing Company

COMPANY ADDRESS: 835 East El Monte Street

San Gabriel, California 91778

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION: The Wham-O Fun Fountain toy is a water toy consisting of a clown head and hat. The clown head portion is attached to the garden hose. When water is turned on, a stream of water shoots out of a nozzle in the top of the clown head. The clown hat is held suspended in the air by the force of the stream of water and can rise up to 15 feet depending on the water supply pressure. The toy can be used with or without the hat.

BRAND NAME: Wham-O

MODEL AND/OR SERIAL NUMBERS: Stock number 237

PRODUCTION AND/OR DISTRIBUTION DATES: 1977, 1978 and 1979

PRODUCTION DATE CODES: None

NUMBER OF PRODUCTS INVOLVED: Of 523,118 units produced, approximately 509,000 units have been sold and shipped.

DEFECT AND HAZARD: The staff believes the Fun Fountain toy is designed such that it invites children to look into the nozzle and that the force with which the water can come through the nozzle is such that it may cause eye injury upon impact. Other injuries may occur as a result of sitting on the stream of water shooting out of the toy.

INCIDENTS OR INJURIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRODUCT (NUMBER AND SEVERITY): Two reported incidents of eye injury (hyphana) to children who were struck in the eye from the stream of water coming out of the nozzle of the toy.

Also two reported safety-related complaints which occurred as the result of the child allegedly sitting on the clown head (hat removed) over the stream of water. These children reportedly suffered minor or no injury.

COMPANY ACTION: Design changes for future production. Other remedial action to be determined.

PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION UNDER SECTION 15 OF CPSA

Report Numbe	er <u>HEB 79</u> -	-2362_			Date Reported	
Identificat:	ion File Numb	er <u>ID</u>	80-16	_	Date Determined	Nov. 5, 1979
CEPD Contac	t S.C. Shima	asaki				
PRODUCT AND	BRAND NAME	Wham-C	Fun Founta	in		
SOURCE:	X Manuf	acturer	/Importer		Retailer	
	Distributor				Other (Specify)	1.
						·
	Name of Firm:		Nham-0 Manufa	cturing	Co.	
	Address:	8	335 East El M	onte St	reet	
			San Gabriel.			-
	Name of Cont	act with	h Firm <u>Ken Mi</u>	llard	Tel. <u>21</u>	3/287-9681
					ves the Fun Founta	•
					o the nozzle and t	
	-		_		s such that it may	
POTENTIAL H				r as a	result of sitting	on the stream
of water sh	nooting out o	f the to	ру			
STAFF DECIS	SION:					
	X Preliminary determination that substantial hazard existant and remedial action should be undertaken.					
	F	Prelimin remedial	ary determina action offer	ation th	at risk of injury irm be monitored.	exists and
	I	Prelimin	ary determina	ation no	t to proceed becau	se:
			formation pro e existence o		available does not	indicate
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

U.S. CONSUMER FRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Memorandum

. : FILE

Through: Catherine C. Cook, Director, CEPD CCC
Through: Hazard Assessment Committee 788
Sandra C. Shimasaki Project Office

: Sandra C. Shimasaki, Project Officer, CEPD &

Hazard Assessment Committee Recommendation for Preliminary SUBJECT: Determination for HEB 79-2362; Wham-O Manufacturing Company, San Gabriel, California; Fun Fountain Water Toy

Recommendation

The Hazard Assessment Committee (HAC) believes the Fun Fountain water toy presents a substantial product hazard and recommends corrective action be sought.

Product

The Wham-O Fun Fountain toy is a water toy consisting of a clown head and hat. The clown head portion is attached to the garden hose. When water is turned on, a stream of water shoots out of a nozzle in the top of the clown head. The clown hat is held suspended in the air by the force from the stream of water and can rise up to 15 feet depending on the water supply pressure. The toy can be used with or without the hat.

Date of Investigation

The Hazard Evaluation Branch (HEB) of CEPD wrote to Wham-O Manufacturing Co. on August 1, 1979 with respect to a CPSC in-depth investigation (IDI). The IDI involved a 6year old child who suffered an eye injury from the pressurized stream of water coming from the Fun Fountain toy. closed meeting was held with representatives of Wham-O on October 23, 1979 to discuss the matter.

Date of Meeting

October 23, 1979

RESTRICTED - NOT FOR FUBLIC RELEAT This document contains PROPRIETABY data on page(s)_2 Initial Sed Date 1-8-80

Defect

- 1. Defect Identified: The staff believes the Fun Fountain toy is designed such that it invites children to look into the nozzle and that the force with which the water can come through the nozzle is such that it may cause eye injury upon impact.
- 2. Assessment: The HAC considered the product to contain a defect(s).

Risk of Injury

1. Pattern of Defect: The HAC considered the defect to arise from the design of the product and would manifest itself when the clown head is being used without the hat, and under certain use conditions which the Committee considered foreseeable.

2. Number of Products Involved: Of the 523,118 units produced in 1977, 1978 and 1979, 508,970 units have been sold and shipped.

3. Severity of Risk

(a) Seriousness of injury - The HAC believes the most serious injury could be eye damage. There have been two reports of eye injuries (hyphema) to children. Hyphema is described as capillary bleeding in the anterior chamber of the eye. According to Dr. Fisher (medical consultant to Wham-0) and Dr. Esch (CPSC), that level of water velocity which would do measurable damage to the eye is, at present, a subjective measurement.

Other injuries may and have occurred as a result of sitting on the stream of water shooting out of the toy.

(b) Likelihood that injury would occur - The Commission investigated an incident where a 6-year old child sustained hyphema in his left eye. He was apparently leaning over the clown head when the water faucet was turned on and consequently the stream of water struck the victim in the eye or eyes.

Wham-O received an additional report of a child sustaining hyphema to his eye. Wham-O reports the hose may have been kinked and then let out while the child's face was over the toy. Consequently, the stream of water hit the child in the eye.

Wham-O reported two other safety-related complaints which occurred as the result of the child allegedly sitting on the clown head (hat removed) over the stream of water. These children reportedly suffered minor or no injury.

The HAC recognizes that the Fun Fountain designed as a clown's head makes it appealing and attractive to children. It is believed that such a toy would invite the curiosity of children to explore how the toy works, i.e., to find out where the water is coming from.

If the child's face is over the toy, under certain circumstances (e.g., when the water was turned on or when the hose was unbent after being kinked while the water was on, or other possible scenerios) eye injury could result from the stream of water hitting the eye.

The HAC considered the likelihood of injury as not improbable.

- (c) Assessment The HAC considered the severity of risk as moderately high since the population group exposed is children and eye injury could occur.
- 4. Other Considerations: After discussions with the representatives from Wham-O, the HAC believes that the Fun Fountain toy could be made safer for use by children (existing and future production units) without imposing an undue economic burden on the company.
- 5. Assessment of Substantiality of Risk: Based on the pattern of defect in a large number of products, the moderately high severity of risk to children and the economic considerations, the HAC assessed the risk of injury as substantial.

FILE - Page 4

Hazard Assessment Committee Members

Catherine C. Cook
John O'Connor
Frank B. Pipkin 7139
Ed Pascarella
Tony Rossi
Mel Kramer W
Betty Fees 64
Sandi Shimasaki

156

HIT

Milland/Shimasalsi 11-6.79

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For ES answer

Kerbenkush /Shurasaki

11-7-79

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Millard / Kerkinbush / Shumasati

Nov 5, 1979

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1/2 million predicts - For Fourteen 21/2 years prediction Cereally test moulest for 1 years

1) 3 (1756 knows of 2) 1 additional eye languary sence last contact

Dr. Fischer

- 1) Boy sid on tog through prenties
- Died on paules, decter, abussion
- 3) CPSC IDI high with pursuing of Englishing Impact to center of eye; Capillary bleeding 19to anterior chamber of eye Hyphema 5%.
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 No evidence of high pressure pressure

Hose may have been kinked Dr. Michael Golden - Mass Ainten incident Child put in hospital 7 year old boy

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Milland's apthomologist has not seem water injuries to age.

Milland maintains same hazard as with quiden hose

Milland states they do not bulians there is a hazand but out of abindance of contrary:

1) Pet Countrys on product - questions does potting marking on emercinge sich men 2) Derign Chorne for 1980

2) Design Change for 1980 Recommend subsequent to CEPD's investigation

Preduct Pretotype con shoron

Doube Kerkenbrush

3

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Ferbenhadt

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milland sould:

1) Will ge forward of new design, CEIDM to let whom I know if we hape

2) Will consider retrofit to be offered through returbers, take up up named 1/63

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ro : File

DATE: October 23, 1979

FROM : Betty Fees, HEB/CEPD

SUBJECT: HEB 79-2362

Wham-O Manufacturing Co.

On October 23, 1979 a closed meeting was held with the designated Wham-O representatives as scheduled. Mr. Millard stated that subsequent to their last contact with CEPD, they had received another report concerning an eye injury (hyphema) involving the hospitalization of a 7 year old boy. This condition was characterized by Dr. Fisher as capillary bleeding in the anterior chamber of the eye. Dr. Fisher indicated that upon his follow up to the injury report, information presently available did not suggest any permanent injury. He added that information on the current incident suggested the involvement of a kinked garden hose. Mr. Millard explained that Dr. Fisher was a consultant to their firm and all reports of injuries resulting from the use of their were referred to him for follow-up and evaluation. Dr. Fisher advised that in light of the two reported injuries he had spoken with members of the Maryland State Opthamologist Association and the general conclusion was there was no scientifically derived data which would indicate a threshold for eye injury from applied hydraulic pressure. Mr. Millard equated the eye injury with the possible misuse of a common garden hose. Dr. Esch stated the distinction was rather graphic as the fun fountain was designed as a clown's head making it appealing and attractive as a child's toy as opposed to the utilization of a garden hose. He opined that the extent of injuries rather clearly reflected excessive water velocity.

Mr. Millard stated his firm did not feel the product presented a substantial product hazard, but following CEPD's request for a sample of the fun fountain, and out of an abundance of caution, certain modifications were considered which included:

- Precautionary language (to be determined)
- Introduction of a flow control valve at the hose connection.

The precautionary language was still to be determined since instructions such as, not to sit on the clown's head or not to look into the clown's head were felt to be possibly too suggestive to children. Placement of the language, i.e., on the unit or added to the packaging was also undecided at this time.

Mr. Kerkenbush, Director of Research and Development, presented the prototype clown's head containing the flow control valve. He explained the purpose of the valve was to regulate the rate of flow of the water velocity from 7-7 1/2 gallons per minute to 3 1/2 gallons per minute. This would coincidentally reduce the height of the water stream from an estimated 15 feet to 10-12 feet. Mr. Kerkenbush indicated any less reduction of the water velocity would in essence eliminate the toys purposefulness or function.

Mr. Millard stated that all new production on this toy which generally began in December could incorporate the design change including some identification factor that would distinguish it from earlier production. He stated this toy was generally distributed by May. Mr. Kerkenbush advised he would ascertain from his technical staff as to whether or not the flow control valve could be designed for incorporation in the units already in distribution and in inventory. He thought there were 10-15,000 units in inventory and if a retrofit could not be effected there remained the option of exportation.

Mr. Kerkenbush turned over mechanical drawings and the prototype clown head to CEPD staff members for review. Mr. Millard agreed to forward their proposals in written communication to HEB.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO

File

DATE: October 22, 1979

Through: Catherine C. Cook, Director, CEPD (CC

:John K. O'Connor, Chief, HEB/CEPD FROM

SUBJECT: Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 15 policy, a closed meeting was requested by Wham-O (HEB 79-2362) concerning a 'Fun Fountain' water toy. This office has made the following arrangements:

October 23, 1979

Time and Place:10:00 a.m. - Room 436 (WTB)

Attendees:

Kenneth A. Millard, Vice President

General Counsel, Wham-O Darle Kerkenbush, Director of Research

and Development, Wham-O

Dr. Russell Fisher, Chief Medical Examiner

for State of Maryland

Catherine C. Cook Frank Pipkin John O'Connor Ed Pascarella Mel Kramer Sandi Shimasaki Tony Rossi Betty Fees Dr. Al Esch ELAINE BESSANT

Dn, Al Esch met with John of Corner, Dn., HEB & the writing to discuss the when o fun founting— orising from the use of this ton would passe as horard sail could create another when the pair of a child; another would such such as in the interest of the children sitting on to change of the children sitting on to change the service with the children sitting on the change of the service with them- o are 18/23/29.

JA7 1697

Meno to the File 10/17/19 The writer received a telephone
cell from Mr. Penneth Miland, VPConcel Causel Whan-O Company. M. Millions
Stated that he would like to come
into CPSC to discuss the fun frontain
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Wham - D HAC meeting Let sample deaded to table Let hazard - Clourn /thut Oct 17, 1979

Mil French Betty, Sandi

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Sample of Tun Transfer Red of 19/19

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10/11/29 The writer on this Late requested Kon Medford, HI-I & examine to havel data systems and farrand ony information on the Ulhan - O Fun Fountain water ton, model no. 237, Hazard Data howded 1917/79

and the second of the second o

September 6, 1979

Mr. Kenneth A. Millard Vice President, General Counsel Wham-O Manufacturing Co. 835 East El Monte Street San Gabriel, California 91778

Re: CPSC HEB 79-2362

Dear Mr. Millard:

In reply to your correspondence of August 8, 1979, we are enclosing for your review a copy of in-depth investigation no. 790611MIN5002, which was the subject of our correspondence of August 1, 1978 addressing an eye injury resulting from the use of a Wham-O Fun Fountain, stock no. 237, manufactured by your firm. We regret we are not at liberty to provide the identity of the individuals involved in this incident.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

John K. O'Connor, Chief Hazard Evaluation Branch Product Defect Correction Division

By

Betty L. Fees Hazard Evaluation Branch

Enclosure